



6

BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH STORYTELLER

Plus: 10
11 Pgs.

FEATURING

Young GODS

"I don't believe
I'm watching a
guy ride a prebolt
in space!"

ALSO:

FREEBOOTERS

"Who but Arca
would point 'The
Golf Is An Asshole'
on the side of
the boat?"

AND:

THE GOLF IS AN ASSHOLE

"I don't know 'The
Golf Is An Asshole'
First Golf!"



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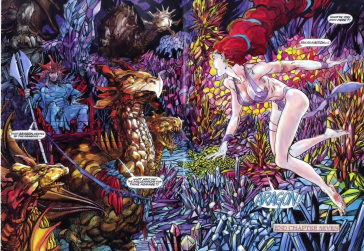












THEY'RE ALL
GONE!

THEY'RE ALL
GONE!

THEY'RE ALL
GONE!

THEY'RE ALL
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THEY'RE ALL
GONE!

THEY'RE ALL
GONE!



Todd Paul
Lake Hill, NY

Dear Storytellers:

It'd been a long time since I'd bought a comic book. I guess I'd gotten discouraged; quality seems to ebb and flow unpredictably in this industry. Every once in a while I'd find a book that was different — that tried to say something, that captured someone's vision, and for a while it was like an oasis — but, soon enough, commercial interests would take over. *Son of the Hero*, *The Hero's Dog Spot*, *The Hero Versus Genghis Khan* and the *Robots from Mars*... you know the story.

That's why I was excited to see Barry Windsor-Smith back with a new book all his own. Three books, even — a new format! A new studio! And on *Dark Horse*, no less! Artistic freedom, quality, beauty — if it's going to happen, I thought, it's going to happen here.

I wasn't disappointed. *STORYTELLER* is truly beautiful. Perhaps it's the size or the high-quality paper; whatever it is, the splash page of Issue one glowed like stained glass. The line and color are amazing. Congratulations, guys!

A few specific comments: the format — one long chapter and two shorts in each issue — takes a little getting used to. I greatly enjoyed the *Freebooters* chapter in Issue #1. *Young Gods* looked interesting, but *Paradoxman* didn't do much for me. Then comes Issue #2; suddenly, *The Paradoxman* is fascinating. *Freebooters* is still fun, but *Young Gods* seems to be treading water. I know it's going to be tough, but I hope you can squeeze enough plot into whatever stories aren't featured in each issue to satisfy fans of these stories.

Speaking of stories, the dialogue in *Freebooters* and *Young Gods* has been a delight. Comic books are supposed to be,

well, comic, aren't they? At least between battles to save the universe and redeem mankind from ultimate evil, the heroes and heroines should find the ability to laugh at themselves. Barry has always had a flair for mixing dissimilar types to comic effect, and he does it again with these two stories.

Young Gods, by the way, is a stunning tribute to the memory of Jack Kirby. I'm glad *Heroes*, *Strangehands*, and *Ad Astra* (now there's a woman I could hoist a few with!) are finally getting out of the royal city at the end of chapter three. Enough scene-setting; let's get on with the adventure!

As for *The Paradoxman*, I suspect his will prove to be the most complex story of the three. It's already the darkest. I hope he gets a foil soon, someone to confide in, to help him through his scary world. Willy the ape-man isn't exactly a sparkling conversationalist.

Anyway, congrats again, and good luck — I mean it!

If the lachrymose, verb-and-noun-challenged Dava is a foil for Tristan Caine, Todd, then you've got your wish. Whilst I haven't intentionally tried to define "comics" as comical (and, yes — I guess you're right, comics are still referred to by an older generation as "funnies," thus we agree that their original *raison d'être* must've been to make one laugh or at least smile), I am of the inclination that entertainment (*STORYTELLER*, in this case) is to laugh, sob, feel, then laugh again. If the story can do that for you, the author has entertained.

Please write again.

DWS



Trish Lewis
Patricia.Lewis@ssa.gov

Dear Young Gods:

I'm a thirty-seven-year-old woman who has read and cherished quality stories of all kinds, including comics, for many, many years. One of my most admired people in the comics world has always been Mr. Windsor-Smith. I first became aware of him over twenty-five years ago with *Conan*. If I remember correctly, I lost touch until *STORYTELLER*, when I saw this coming out. I was thrilled to see his work again.

Your title of *STORYTELLER* for the entire book is so very apt, because it gives us the feeling of ongoing and involved stories. The stories have much humor, as well as a depth of humanity to the characters, good and bad. For the first three volumes out so far, I forget from month to month, until I read the next one, how deceptive it would be to assume this is just another book. Anyone who dismisses Mr. Windsor-Smith without truly reading through his work is doing him or herself a very big disfavor.

I especially like *Young Gods*, having a soft spot for Scaldic verse and Norse sagas, mythic stories, etc., in general. Not to mention some more strong female characters... being of Irish stock myself, I love that part... smile.

I'll continue being there around the campfire, listening...

Trish, I assume you are referring to *Mer Most Royal Lady*, *The Princess Ad Astra*, as the strong female character. Addy (as she allows us to call her on occasion) has a remarkably colourful past, which I shall offer up in engaging detail as we sit about our campfire, between the roasted hot-dogs and hot toddies. Blanket anyone?

DWS

CORRESPONDENCE

IN HONEST ERROR
NONE IN THE
CYPERFECTION
OF THE MERESTY
CLUST



Mark Kuprych
Durlington, Vermont

Dear Dark Horse Comics,

I wanted to write a quick thank-you for reintroducing me to comics. I haven't seriously read an entire issue for years, but I found the first three issues of STORYTELLER confusing, hilarious, and beautiful to look at, all at once. Barry Windsor-Smith's art has an old-world character to it — I must have looked at the cover of Issue #1 for a half-hour. I very much like the large format, which is comfortable to hold and look at, and the large pages accommodate really nicely the panoramic scenes that look like they took weeks to draw.

I hope Barry Windsor-Smith's STORYTELLER series catches on; I think work of this caliber deserves respect both within and beyond the typical comics audience. If future issues are as cleverly and beautifully created, I think that I and a lot of other readers may find themselves attracted to STORYTELLER.

By now, Mark, I imagine you've read up to this current issue, number six, and I hope your interest has been sustained and satisfied. I'm really thrilled to have "reintroduced" you to comics, as it's a particular goal of mine to do precisely that which you imply. In creating and honing the concept of STORYTELLER, I had in mind such people as yourself, who, if I may presume, had lost interest in the medium because comics had failed to develop and mature along with you.

I'm not claiming that Axis' toilet humour or Tristan Calne's ever-increasing use of the F-word is a mark of mature content in this work but, rather, that the characters flocking about within these pages will always take their own paths and never fall to the whims of style or expediency.

DWS



Joe Petrillak
Mount Vernon, NY
Jmpet@aol.com

Barry Windsor-Smith:

I was not fortunate to jump on early to your work, partially due to my age, partially due to my early tastes, but I am glad to have known you through your work. This is the third time I have tried your work, with three different companies, and I am richer from all three experiences. I pre-bought STORYTELLER wholly through name recognition, and I can proudly say I have yet to be disappointed by DWS.

I can understand any frustration you may have in today's world in trying to tell a story to an audience who wants the whole concept in eight minutes flat, and I admire your persistence in storytelling (or Storytelling). Storytelling is now regarded by mankind as largely a lost art, one in which the finger gets pointed at you as one of the last surviving examples thereof. So be it. And you get the work out on time! With writing, pencils, and inks. On time. That's another lost art. And I would measure your art far beyond any "hot" artist out there. You could draw the simplest of characters, just a few lines on paper, just a minor background element, and with a couple of sentences make it seem as if we have known him all along. Keep that up.

You are the shining light in an otherwise blah comics marketplace. And even though there aren't three trillion copies to prove it, I know it. And so do you. I would have to consider you (knight you!) the best continuing-story teller alive today.

So please keep away from all the politics in comics today, and stick to what you do best over all others: storytelling.

Thank you.

Joe, I am thoroughly flattered by your letter, and because of that I have considered that perhaps I shouldn't print it, for fear of being judged an egoist.

With such letters as published here by Todd Paul, Trish Lewis, Mark Kuprych and yourself, I've come to one of the few bridges in my career that I've not before traversed, that of being a letters arbiter and answerer, of sorts.

I've realized in this that I can't consider myself as having the right stuff to reply to such thoughtful and caring letters, as are printed here, with the commercial gung-ho that's probably required of an active letters-answerer-for-publication position.

The truth behind-the-scenes is: I'm quite a bit choked up by your lovely letters and my heart goes out with thanks to you all for your support of my work —

As I write these words I am finishing issue ten of STORYTELLER — I think it's good work. I hope you will all continue to enjoy my stories.

DWS



NOTICE: Windsor-Smith Studio and Dark Horse are pleased to offer as our release for April the much requested custom archival slipcase for STORYTELLER (see your retailer for ordering information). Barry Windsor-Smith: STORYTELLER #7 will be published in May, at which time the normal monthly schedule will resume. This one-month hiatus will provide a short break for the creative and production teams on STORYTELLER, as well as spare readers from being faced with two expenses for STORYTELLER items in the month of April. Your patience and continued support are greatly appreciated.





























WINDSOR-
SMITH
STUDIO[illegible][illegible]

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Abstract

Figure 1. The study design.

Figure 1

1. The first step is to identify the problem. In this case, the problem is that the company is not meeting its sales targets.

BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH
STORYTELLER

Our lead story is filled
to the brim! Meet the
Hawaii Economist, who
stands in for us, since the
Reporter is off covering
the local politics. Hoopee
goes, burned and Tasty gets
some. *Readers' Choice*



Abstract

It's a bit more of bad timing, so we take a quick trip back to Atlanta just to see how the Broad River's will join for the watershed fighting climate is coming along. The Broad River



11

Tricks has just about had it right up to here with the shape-shifting, volitional and yet dissolving magical nothing it what it seems to be the time for a reality check. This one is your chance!



